

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :  
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-v- : DECLARATION OF STEVEN M.  
BELLOVIN, Ph.D., IN SUPPORT OF  
SUPPRESSION  
JOSHUA ADAM SCHULTE, : 17 Cr. 548 (PAC)  
Defendant. :  
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STEVEN M. BELLOVIN, Ph.D., declares under penalty of perjury:

1. I am the Percy K. and Vida L.W. Hudson Professor of Computer Science at Columbia University, where I have taught since 2005. I make this declaration for the limited purpose of providing expert support for Defendant Joshua Adam Schulte's motion to suppress and for an evidentiary hearing under *Franks v. Delaware*, 438 U.S. 154 (1978). This declaration is based on my personal knowledge (including my training and experience as a computer scientist), my review of documents produced by the government in discovery, and my discussions with members of Mr. Schulte's defense team.

2. Because this declaration is being made for a limited purpose, it does not include everything I know about this case or the matters discussed herein.

### **My Qualifications**

3. My curriculum vitae is annexed hereto as Exhibit "A." In summary, I received my doctorate in computer science in 1982 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I am currently the Percy K. and Vida L.W. Hudson Professor of Computer Science at Columbia University and an affiliate faculty member at Columbia Law School. I have been a Professor of Computer Science at Columbia since 2005. I have also worked as Chief

Technologist for the Federal Trade Commission (2012–2013), Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at the University of Pennsylvania (2002–2004), and as a consultant and research fellow for AT&T (1998–2012).

4. I am also a member of the National Academy of Engineering (“National Academy”) and have served on many National Academy study committees and the National Academy’s Computer Science and Telecommunications Board. I have also been part of the leadership of the Internet Engineering Task Force, serving on the Internet Architecture Board and as a Security Area Director. I have also served on several advisory committees at the Department of Homeland Security and the Election Assistance Commission.

5. I have published extensively on a wide range of subjects relating to Internet security, computer science, and forensic computer analysis.

#### **The Meaning and Significance of a Computer’s “Page File”**

6. I understand that when the government applied in April 2017 for a warrant to search Mr. Schulte’s devices for evidence of child pornography, the government claimed it had found a single “photograph” or image of what “appear[ed] to be child pornography” on Mr. Schulte’s “desktop computer.”

7. In fact, according to documents produced by the government in discovery, the image was discovered in a specific area of Mr. Schulte’s desktop computer known as the “page file.” This location should have been obvious to the investigating agents because the “file path” of the image—the written description of where on the computer the image was found—indicates that it was found within “pagefile.sys,” an unmistakable reference to the page file.

8. A “page file” (sometimes referred to as a “paging file” or “swap file”) is an area of the computer that acts as an extension of the computer’s Random Access Memory (RAM). If information in RAM is not actively being used by the computer, or has not recently been used, the operating system (e.g., Windows) may move it to the page file in order to free up memory space in RAM.

9. Significantly, the operating system, not the computer’s user, creates and maintains the page file. Indeed, the contents of the page file are generally not accessible to the computer’s user. Similarly, computer users generally cannot modify or determine the contents of a page file. And the contents of a page file do not have file names and do not resemble ordinary user files.

10. Because of the nature of a page file, the presence of a photograph or other image in a page file, standing alone, does not provide a basis for concluding that the photograph or image was ever knowingly accessed, received, possessed, or even seen by a computer user. For example, when a computer user visits an Internet website, the web browser can automatically “pre-fetch” or download images into RAM from the website, thus allowing them to be stored in the page file, even if the user never viewed those images or intentionally “clicked” on them. An image can thus end up in the computer’s page file without the user’s knowledge—and even if the user never saw it, intentionally accessed it, or knowingly acquired it. Indeed, since the page file contains pieces of RAM that have not been used recently, the presence of an image on the page file is suggestive of an image that was not viewed recently, if at all.

11. In this case, moreover, the limited “metadata” associated with the image—the information about the origin or format of the image—does not indicate when the image was

created, accessed, or last viewed by a user (if ever). Accordingly, the image may have been residing in the page file of Mr. Schulte's computer for a long period of time before it was discovered by law enforcement—indeed, it may have been there ever since the computer was first used. Put another way, the mere fact that the image was found in Mr. Schulte's page file in April 2017 does not show that it had arrived on the computer recently, as opposed to many months or years earlier.

12. Finally, about 20 percent of the image is blacked out. While there are various reasons this may have occurred, the blacking out is consistent with the image having been automatically downloaded to Mr. Schulte's computer, and stored to the page file, without him ever seeing or knowingly acquiring it.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: New York, New York  
June 28, 2019



Steven M. Bellovin, Ph.D.

# *Exhibit A*

## Steven M. Bellovin

Percy K. and Vida L.W. Professor of Computer Science

smb at cs.columbia.edu  
<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~smb>

## Education

**1982** Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dissertation: *Verifiably Correct Code Generation Using Predicate Transformers*; advisor: David L. Parnas.

**1977** M.S., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**1972** B.A., Columbia University.

## Employment

**2014–now** Percy K. and Vida L.W. Professor of Computer Science, Columbia University.

**2005–2014** Professor of Computer Science, Columbia University.

**2012–2013** Chief Technologist, Federal Trade Commission

**2002–2004** Adjunct Professor of Computer Science, University of Pennsylvania.

**2005–2012** AT&T, consultant

**1998–2004** AT&T Fellow, AT&T Labs—Research.

**1987–1998** Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff, AT&T Bell Laboratories and AT&T Labs—Research.

**1982–1987** Member of the Technical Staff, AT&T Bell Laboratories.

**1977–1978** Instructor, Dept. of Computer Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

## Honors

**2014** Elected to the Cybersecurity Hall of Fame

**2006** Received the 2007 NIST/NSA National Computer Systems Security Award

**2001** Elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

**1998** Named an AT&T Fellow.

**1995** Received the Usenix Lifetime Achievement Award (“The Flame”), along with Tom Truscott and Jim Ellis, for our role in creating Usenet.

## Books and Chapters

- Salvatore Stolfo, Steven M. Bellovin, Angelos D. Keromytis, Sara Sinclair, Sean Smith, and Shlomo Hershkop, editors. *Insider Attack and Cyber Security: Beyond the Hacker (Advances in Information Security)*. Springer, 2008.
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- Steven M. Bellovin, Renée M. Hutchins, Tony Jebara, and Sebastian Zimmeck. When enough is enough: Location tracking, mosaic theory, and machine learning. *NYU Journal of Law and Liberty*, 8(2):555–628, 2014.
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- Vasilis Pappas, Fernando Krell, Binh Vo, Vlad Kolesnikov, Tal Malkin, Seung Geol Choi, Wesley George, Angelos Keromytis, and Steven M. Bellovin. Blind seer: A scalable private DBMS. In *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy*, May 2014.
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## Major Positions

**2013–2015** Member, National Research Council study committee on FAA Next Generation Air Traffic Control System

**2012–now** Member, National Research Council study committee on Cybersecurity Foundations

**2010–now** Member, Computer Science and Telecommunications Board of the National Academies

**2009–2012** Member, Technical Guidelines Development Committee of the Elections Assistance Commission

**2008** Co-chair, Applied Cryptography and Network Security (ACNS)

**2006** Chair, Steps Towards Reducing Unwanted Traffic in the Internet (SRUTI)

**2005–now** Member, Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee

**2004–2007** Member, National Research Council study committee on cybersecurity research needs.

**2002–2004** Member, ICANN DNS Security and Stability Advisory Committee.

**2002–2004** Security Area co-director, Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

**2002** Chair, program committee, IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy.

**2002** Member, Information Technology sub-committee, National Research Council study committee on science and technology against terrorism.

**2001–2003** Member, ACM Advisory Committee on Security and Privacy.

**2001** Vice-chair, program committee, IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy.

**2001–2003** Member, National Research Council study committee on authentication technologies and their privacy implications.

**2000–2002** Chair, IETF ITRACE working group.

**2000** Co-chair, Usenix Security Symposium.

**1999–2002** IETF representative, ICANN Protocol Supporting Organization

**1999–now** Co-chair, IETF SPIRITS working group.

**1997–2001** Co-chair, IETF PINT working group.

**1996–1998** Member, National Research Council study committee on information systems trustworthiness.

**1996–2002** Member, Internet Architecture Board.

**1996** Co-chair, Usenix Security Symposium.

**1993–1995** Member, IETF IPng Directorate.

## U.S. Patents

8,798,614 Enhanced communication service for predicting and handling communication interruption

8,676,916 Method and Apparatus for Connection to Virtual Private Networks for Secure Transactions

8,239,531 Method and Apparatus for Connection to Virtual Private Networks for Secure Transactions

8,145,793 System and Method for Distributed Content Transformation

8,107,479 Method and System for Telephony and High Speed Data Access on a Broadband Access Network

8,037,167 Method for Detecting Hosts behind Network Address Translators

7,907,517 Routing Protocols with Predicted Outage Notification

7,756,008 Routing Protocols with Predicted Outage Notification

7,676,224 Enhanced Communication Service for Predicting and Handling Communication Interruption (2010).

7,558,970 Full-Text Privacy-enhanced searches using encryption

7,227,843 Method for reducing congestion in packet-switched networks (2007).

7,051,365 Method and apparatus for a distributed firewall (2006).

7,035,410 Method and apparatus for enhanced security in a broadband telephony network (2006).

6,870,845 Method for providing privacy by network address translation (2005).

6,665,299 Method and system for telephony and high speed data access on a broadband access network (2003).

5,958,052 Method and apparatus for restricting access to private information in domain name systems by filtering information (1999).

5,870,557 Method for determining and reporting a level of network activity on a communications network using a routing analyzer and advisor (1999).

5,805,820 Method and apparatus for restricting access to private information in domain name systems by redirecting query requests (1998).

5,440,635 Cryptographic protocol for remote authentication (1995).

5,241,599 Cryptographic protocol for secure communications (1993).

Numerous other patent applications are pending.